and to monitor various stages of procurement, storage, transportation, processing and packaging in the food chain.

- Major chilli producing states had also been advised to initiate and sustain action with the specific objective of preventing use of Sudan I by the food industry.

Trade target

5. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has set a trade target of $ 500 bl. by 2008-09, as against the last year of $ 185;

(b) what is the export target for the current fiscal; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to achieve the above target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Government has been setting targets for exports. No targets are set for imports of total trade. During 2004-05 a target of US $ 75 billion was set for exports. Against this target, exports crossed US $ 80 billion. India's imports reached US $109 billion during the same period, as a result of which total trade touched US $ 190 billion last year. India's export target for 2008-09, as announced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2004-09 is US $ 150 billion.

(b) The export target for the currrent fiscal has been fixed at US $ 92 billion.

(c) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to promote exports. These *inter-alia*, include bringing into force the SEZ Act 2005 to trigger a larger flow of foreign and domestic investment in infrastructure and productive capacity; setting up of Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) which would get all the benefits available with SEZs; giving a major thrust to procedural simplification to reduce transaction cost of exporters; and signing regional trade agreements to leverage exports in line with India's comparative advantage.